REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 have been amended. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks urged here, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-16, 18-19, 21-23, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,862,480 to Wild et al. ("Wild").

Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of "associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system." Claim 8 has been amended to recite the step of "associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system." Claim 15 has been amended to recite the step of "associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system." Claim 22 has been amended to recite "a processor coupled to said data bus, wherein the processor is configured to attempt to initiate a first network link of a plurality of network links in response to a request for said first network link based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system, and wherein if said first network link is not established and if a user has previously designated an alternative network link for said first network link, said processor is further configured to attempt to initiate said alternative network link."

The present invention, as set forth in the recited claims, is directed to a method and system for attempting to establish alternative network links upon failing to establish a requested network link. In operation, the computer system attempts to establish an alternative network link upon failing to establish a requested network link. The computer system may encounter

conditions where access to numerous networks, in particular wireless networks, is not available. Rather than only providing an error message to the user upon a failed attempt to establish the requested network link, the computer system determines whether the user has designated an alternative network link in case the requested network link cannot be established. The alternative network link is selected from the plurality of network links that the computer system is configured to support. If an alternative network link has been designated, the computer system attempts to establish the alternative network link. Importantly, the network link designations are prioritized based upon a priority assigned by the user of the computer system.

By contrast, Wild is directed to a system to obtain radio network access information for a subscriber unit. Wild teaches a network contacting an access server prior to the network's subscriber authentication procedure. The access server is capable of determining whether a subscriber unit belongs to a group which is allowed to access the network. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that access designation are prioritized based upon a priority assigned by the user of the subscriber unit.

Since Wild does not disclose or teach each and every limitation of the amended claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16, 18-19, 21, 23, 25, and 27, by their dependence on amended claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 respectively, are similarly allowable. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wild in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,414 to Horn ("Horn").

Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of "associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system." Claim 8 has been amended to recite the step of "associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links based upon a priority assigned

by the user of said computer system." Claim 15 has been amended to recite the step of "associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system." Claim 22 has been amended to recite "a processor coupled to said data bus, wherein the processor is configured to attempt to initiate a first network link of a plurality of network links in response to a request for said first network link based upon a priority assigned by the user of said computer system, and wherein if said first network link is not established and if a user has previously designated an alternative network link for said first network link, said processor is further configured to attempt to initiate said alternative network link."

The present invention, as set forth in the recited claims, is directed to a method and system for attempting to establish alternative network links upon failing to establish a requested network link. In operation, the computer system attempts to establish an alternative network link upon failing to establish a requested network link. The computer system may encounter conditions where access to numerous networks, in particular wireless networks, is not available. Rather than only providing an error message to the user upon a failed attempt to establish the requested network link, the computer system determines whether the user has designated an alternative network link in case the requested network link cannot be established. The alternative network link is selected from the plurality of network links that the computer system is configured to support. If an alternative network link has been designated, the computer system attempts to establish the alternative network link. Importantly, the network link designations are prioritized based upon a priority assigned by the user of the computer system.

As discussed above, the Examiner's base reference, Wild is directed to a system to obtain radio network access information for a subscriber unit. Wild teaches a network contacting an access server prior to the network's subscriber authentication procedure. The access server is capable of determining whether a subscriber unit belongs to a group which is allowed to access the network. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that access designation are prioritized based upon a priority assigned by the user of the subscriber unit.

The shortcomings of the base reference are not overcome by Horn. Horn is directed to a system for monitoring network connection conditions to determine availability and suitability of

each network connection. The system selectively transmits information via a selected network connection. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that network access designation are prioritized based upon a priority assigned by the user of the computer system.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the cited references does not teach or suggest every claimed feature of the invention. The prior art reference (or references) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Since a prima facie case of obviousness has not been set forth, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 26, by their dependency on amended claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 respectively, are similarly allowable. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if an interview might expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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